

Bastrop County Public Health Department
New World Screwworm Veterinarian Toolkit

Purpose

This toolkit is intended to provide veterinarians with access to New World Screwworm resources, reporting information, and FDA-treatment information.

When To Suspect New World Screwworm

Consider New World screwworm in animals with the following:

- Maggots in or around an open wound
- Wounds that are enlarging or worsening
- Foul odor from the wound
- Drainage, bleeding, swelling, or tissue damage
- Signs of pain, irritation, or unusual behavior
- Excessive scratching or licking near the open wound area
- Reduced movement or milk production
- Recent travel from, or exposure to animals from areas where New World screwworm is present

Immediate Actions To Take For Any Suspected Cases

If New World screwworm is suspected:

1. Look at and examine the wound carefully.
 - a. Look for any eggs or larvae / odor
2. Report immediately
 - a. Immediately contact state health official and USDA-APHIS area veterinarian in charge
3. Collect and preserve any larvae if possible
 - a. Place as many larvae as can be collected in a tightly-closed container containing 70% rubbing alcohol. Submit the samples to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories with a completed Parasite Submission Form

4. Freeze solid any unsubmitted larvae. If animal is euthanized or dies either excise the wound if small enough or treat whole carcass by incineration or freezing solid before disposal, Make sure no maggots are allowed to exit the wound and enter the ground.
5. Begin treatment accordingly
 - a. All treatments should be based on the animal species, wound severity, clinical status, and current FDA authorized or conditionally approved product guidance

*NOTE: All affected animals need to be placed under a hold order under the supervision of a USDA-accredited veterinarian and/or an official veterinarian until parasite identification has been officially confirmed and the animal is free of screwworm as confirmed by the official veterinarian

Reporting Contacts for New World Screwworm Cases

Livestock and Domestic Animals:

Texas Animal Health Commission (512) 719-0700

State veterinarian on call 1-800-550-8242

Wildlife in Bastrop County:

Texas Parks and Wildlife

Rachel Patterson, Wildlife Biologist

Phone: (979) 255-8481

Email: Rachel.Patterson@tpwd.texas.gov

Treatment and Control of New World Screwworm

If New World screwworm is confirmed in the animal, the animal and the environment they are in needs to be treated under the supervision of the official veterinarian in accordance with standard operating procedures. Disposable gloves are vital during these procedures for protection.

The FDA has listed several products with Emergency Use Authorizations or conditional approvals for New World screwworm related treatment or prevention in specific species.

For dogs and cats, FDA issued emergency use authorizations for NexGard (afoxolaner) for treatment in dogs, and NexGard COMBO (containing esafloxolaner, eprinomectin, and praziquantel) for treatment in cats. Credelio is also used for both cats and dogs. For cattle, Ivomec (ivermectine) is authorized for emergency use while Dectomax is used for other animals such as horses, swine, sheep, and deer. Further drug information can be found on: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nws-response-playbook.pdf>

It is important to note that these products should not be used for routine prevention medications for pets. They should be discussed as FDA authorized treatments for any and all suspected cases.

Recommended Treatment Approach

- Remove any and all eggs and larvae from the wound area
- Provide wound care as appropriate
- To prevent any additional infections, use antiseptics
- Administer approved FDA antiparasitics to affected animal
- Continue to monitor the affected animal for at least 24 hours after treatment to confirm that there are no live larvae remaining in the wound. If any larvae remain, continue to treat as necessary.

Environmental Treatment Recommendations

- Spray surfaces with approved larvicidal insecticide
- Wash sprayed surfaces with warm soap and water
- Collect and safely discard any eggs/larvae after freezing solid.

Companion Animal Counseling Points

For effective prevention, consider emphasizing to pet owners to:

- Keep pets on veterinarian-recommended flea and tick prevention
- Check pets and animals daily for wounds
- Keep wounds clean and seek veterinary care if wounds worsen
- Keep animals away from sick, injured, or other dead wildlife

- Prevent injuries from bites, scratches, sharp objects, fences, and other rough environments
- Do not use livestock products or home remedies on pets unless directed by a veterinarian

Additional Resources

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/nws-response-playbook.pdf>

<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/safety-health/new-world-screwworm-information-veterinarians>

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/one-health/veterinarians-and-public-health/new-world-screwworm>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm>

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animals/animal-health/livestock-and-poultry-disease/stop-screwworm/report-suspected-cases-screwworm>